

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-6. (Canceled)

7. (Currently Amended) A method for operating a vehicle navigation system by enabling useful data including navigation data[[,]] which is one of (a) stored on a data carrier and (b) transmitted into a data processing system associated with the vehicle navigation system, the method comprising:

enabling the useful data for an area which is ~~freely selectable~~ definable by a user of the useful data, wherein the useful data are enabled for an area defined by the user by one of (a) defining a center point and a radius of a circular region, or (b) specifying corners of the area.

8. (Canceled).

9. (Canceled).

10. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 7, wherein the enabling of the useful data includes granting of a use authorization, wherein [[a]] the use authorization is one of (a) transmitted via a radio signal and (b) present on the data carrier.

11. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim [[8]] 7, wherein ~~a navigation system is~~ GPS data or radiolocation data are used to determine whether the user is located within the user-defined area for which a use authorization has been granted.

12. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 7, wherein enabling takes place in a time-limited manner.

13. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 7, wherein the area defined by the user is not limited to any political boundary.